

July/August 1982

LASCA LEAVES



Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

NEW PLANTS INTRODUCED BY ARBORETUM

UNUSUAL FLOWER COLORS of the three plants introduced by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum add new appeal to familiar garden favorites.

The introductions all debuted at Baldwin Bonanza XII in May, giving plant sale shoppers a chance to be among the first to have the new cultivars in their gardens. The California Arboretum Foundation's Gift Shop is now one of the few sources

where the plants are regularly available.

The vivid Moorish blue of *Alyogyne huegelii* 'Santa Cruz' sets it apart from the first blue hibiscus the Arboretum introduced 14 years ago. Dick Dunmire from the Lane Pub-



LuAnn B. Munns

Several beds of the 1982 plant introduction *Osteospermum 'Sunshine'* bloom in the Arboretum's South African section.

lishing Company brought the new cultivar to the attention of the Arboretum staff who named it 'Santa Cruz' in honor of the University of California at Santa Cruz where the first plant grew. The satiny petals are slightly more rounded and open completely into a more typical single hibiscus flower than the lighter-colored flowers of the original blue hibiscus. The fast growing, drought tolerant shrub bears a profusion of flowers throughout the year, a trait that made the original blue hibiscus a favorite among local gardeners.

The new lily of the Nile, *Agapanthus* 'Rhapsody,' also produces flowers of a deeper tone than most of its predecessors. Although of the same parentage as the purple 'Mood Indigo' that was introduced by the Arboretum in 1979, 'Rhapsody' has no trace of purple in its clear blue flowers. The strain that produced both cultivars is the result of a cross between two species, *A. africanus*

and *A. inapertus*. The same group of seedlings eventually produced 'Rhapsody.'

Unlike the other two introductions, *Osteospermum* 'Sunshine' is not an improvement over existing colors, but instead adds an entirely different hue to the purple and white of the familiar freeway display. Petals with the subtle tones of old ivory reverse to bold yellow and brown stripes on the varnished undersides. This unexpected blend of colors was produced by a cross between the original freeway daisy (*Osteospermum fruticosum*) and *Dimorphospermum* 'Buttersweet.' Glossy, deep green foliage forms tidy mounds below the flowers.

The three plants were introduced as part of the Arboretum's ongoing program for evaluating plants on the grounds here. Cultivars that show exceptional merit are further tested for possible introduction into the Southern California horticultural industry.

DEMAND GROWS FOR CHARTER TRAM TOURS

THE NEW TRAM, purchased by the California Arboretum Foundation last January, made possible the expansion of the group charter program at the Arboretum. The program started about two years ago with regular visits from Grayline daytrippers. During the busiest tourist season, however, the charter groups' requests often conflicted with the public's demand for tours and occasionally caused disappointment for visitors.

Since January, the charter tours use the two small trams, leaving the new tram available for public use. The 12 additional seats on the 60 passenger vehicle accommodate an extra 200 visitors each weekend.

The size of the new tram has proved to be a boon not only to the public on the weekends but also to the others who want guided tours for large groups during the week. Since January, reservations for morning tours have increased to about five or six each week. Many of them are groups of older people who were deterred from visiting the Arboretum before by the prospect of a hike through its 127 acres.

The Weingart Foundation sponsors a "Grand People's Program" that provides cultural experiences for different groups of Southern California senior citizens. One of the favorite attractions on their itinerary is a morning tour of the Arboretum with its colorful plants and historical buildings.

The curiosity and responsiveness of the oldsters, in turn, make them favorites with the guides at the Arboretum. Judy Nagby, who leads one or two "Grand People" groups each week, is especially enthusiastic about them. "They are fun to take around because they really listen to what I say. They also give a lot of feedback."

Two blind members made a re-



LuAnn B. Munns

Flowers of Alyogyne huegelii 'Santa Cruz' are a darker shade than those of the original blue hibiscus.

cent tour especially challenging and pleasurable for her because she had to describe the charms of the Arboretum in specific and graphic terms.

"When I said 'This magnolia tree has large blossoms,' they asked 'How large?' so while the rest of the group was in the Coach Barn I placed a fallen blossom in the blind woman's hands. She stroked the fuzzy underside of the petals and commented on the fragrance. Meanwhile, the blind man impatiently awaited his turn to examine the flower. Finally he got tired of wait-

ing. He held out his hands and said 'Let me see!'

The Queen Anne Cottage seems to have a poignant meaning for everyone on the senior citizens' tours because the furnishings recall childhood scenes. "Often they will say, 'I remember working on a crazy quilt like that when I was a little girl,' or 'My mother used to have things like that,'" said Mrs. Nagby.

Other attractions at the Arboretum have universal appeal for any age group. Sue Baca often narrates special tours made up of visitors

from outside the Southern California area. These escapees from northern climates are most often intrigued by the palm trees. "They all want to have their picture taken with a palm tree," she said. The peacocks also cause a sensation.

Although all the tour groups are impressed by the extravagant floral displays in the tropical greenhouse, the changing displays of exotic plants cause an occasional problem for the guides. "One lady was a florist," said Mrs. Baca ruefully. "She wanted to know the name of every flower in the greenhouse."

Reservations for the special morning tours are gradually increasing as word gets around to other senior citizens and garden clubs that the Arboretum offers weekday tours for groups. David Lofgren who books the tours said requests for tours in May were more than twice as great as in February. Reservations should continue to increase as more groups become aware of the tours through a new brochure prepared by the Department. "The Los Angeles State and County Arboretum — All Year — All Seasons" the brochure promises truthfully.

KINGSTON TRIO CONCERT

THE TREND TOWARD contemporary music for the annual Arcadia Chamber of Commerce picnic concert continues in 1982 with the choice of the Kingston Trio for the July 11 event. Music lovers can bring their own picnics at 6:30 p.m. to enjoy on the main lawn before the 1½ hour concert begins at 8 p.m. The California Arboretum Foundation and Chamber of Commerce will cosponsor the benefit performance.

The story of the Kingston Trio, its success and longevity, is really a look at the transformation of American music over the past 2½ decades. Unlike many popular stars who come and go, the Trio's music today is every bit as responsive and sensitive as it was in 1958 when "Tom



Charter tour members stroll back to the tram after visiting the Queen Anne Cottage, a nostalgic stop on their excursion.

"Dooley" became one of the best selling records in American musical history, with more than six million copies sold to date. The haunting lilt that helped sell a million copies of some of their other hits such as "Charlie and the MTA," "Worried Man," "Tijuana Jail" and "Scotch and Soda," still runs through their newest album, but now the lyrical messages reflect current concerns.

Four baskets of gourmet treats will be awarded to winners in the picnic spread contest. The two categories, "Most Elegant" and "Most Unique," will have winners for two sized groups. The large group will be a picnic for five or more and the small winners will be for groups of four or fewer.

Tickets are \$7.50 for adults with free admission for children under 12 who are accompanied by an adult. Reserved tickets are available at the Arboretum, Hinshaw's and the Chamber of Commerce office. If any tickets remain, they will be sold at the door.

The Arcadia Rotary Club will also sponsor an evening concert at the Arboretum on Sept. 12. Details will be announced later.

NEW POSTER SHOWS COTTAGE IN FULL COLOR

RUTH MARY (Mrs. Leland) Larson, gift shop manager at the Arboretum, announced the availability of a new poster featuring the Queen Anne Cottage, a popular landmark at the county facility. Created by Carmel photographer Don Dimond, the 20- by 27-inch color photolithograph evokes the atmosphere of the cottage and surrounding landscape as they might have appeared a century ago. Fans of "Fantasy Island" will recognize the scene as the setting used for that television production.

The poster is available unmounted or in a choice of frames.

Don Dimond

The new poster held by Ruth Mary (Mrs. Leland) Larson is available in the Gift Shop either unmounted or in a choice of frames.



Marie (Mrs. George) Jack, left, and Elaine (Mrs. John) Hoffman align the plaque honoring Mr. Jack. A sundial and drinking fountain in the Garden for All Seasons were dedicated to his memory during ceremonies June 14.



Baldwin Bonanza XII



AFTER THE INITIAL rush of CAF members and their guests Friday night, Baldwin Bonanza XII settled into an uncharacteristically calm sale this year. Milton Murset who, along with his wife Dorothy, was general chairman of the event, thought that spreading the sale out over two days helped make the pace more relaxed.

"We had a slow, steady flow of shoppers both days," he said. "So the workers didn't have to work so hard and so fast." The approximately 10,000 weekend shoppers, on the other hand, found parking spaces more easily and were able to look over the plants at their leisure.

Hanging baskets of fuchsias were the best sellers again this year. Because the 100 fuchsias on hand sold out during the Preview Party last year the order was tripled for Baldwin Bonanza XII. This year the supply lasted until midmorning Saturday. Other consistently popular plants — orchids, ferns, and pelargoniums — sold out during the early hours Sunday.

Besides the less frantic pace, Baldwin Bonanza XII departed from tradition in other ways. Shifting the sale date to include both Saturday and Sunday made it necessary to hold the Preview Party Friday night instead of Saturday night, raising fears that attendance would suffer.

"But we were surprised at the number of people who came," said Mr. Murset. "Even though it was a

work night, we had a good crowd."

The Mursets were also concerned that it might be difficult to staff the sales booths for both days during the sale. But booth chairmen and John Provine, superintendent, recruited 300 volunteers and Arbore-

tum staff members to work an average of four hours each during the sale. Their collective efforts made Baldwin Bonanza XII an event that will add substantially to the Foundation's contributions again this year.



Age is no handicap to this eager Baldwin Bonanza shopper as he outdistances the crowd. (Photos by William Aplin)

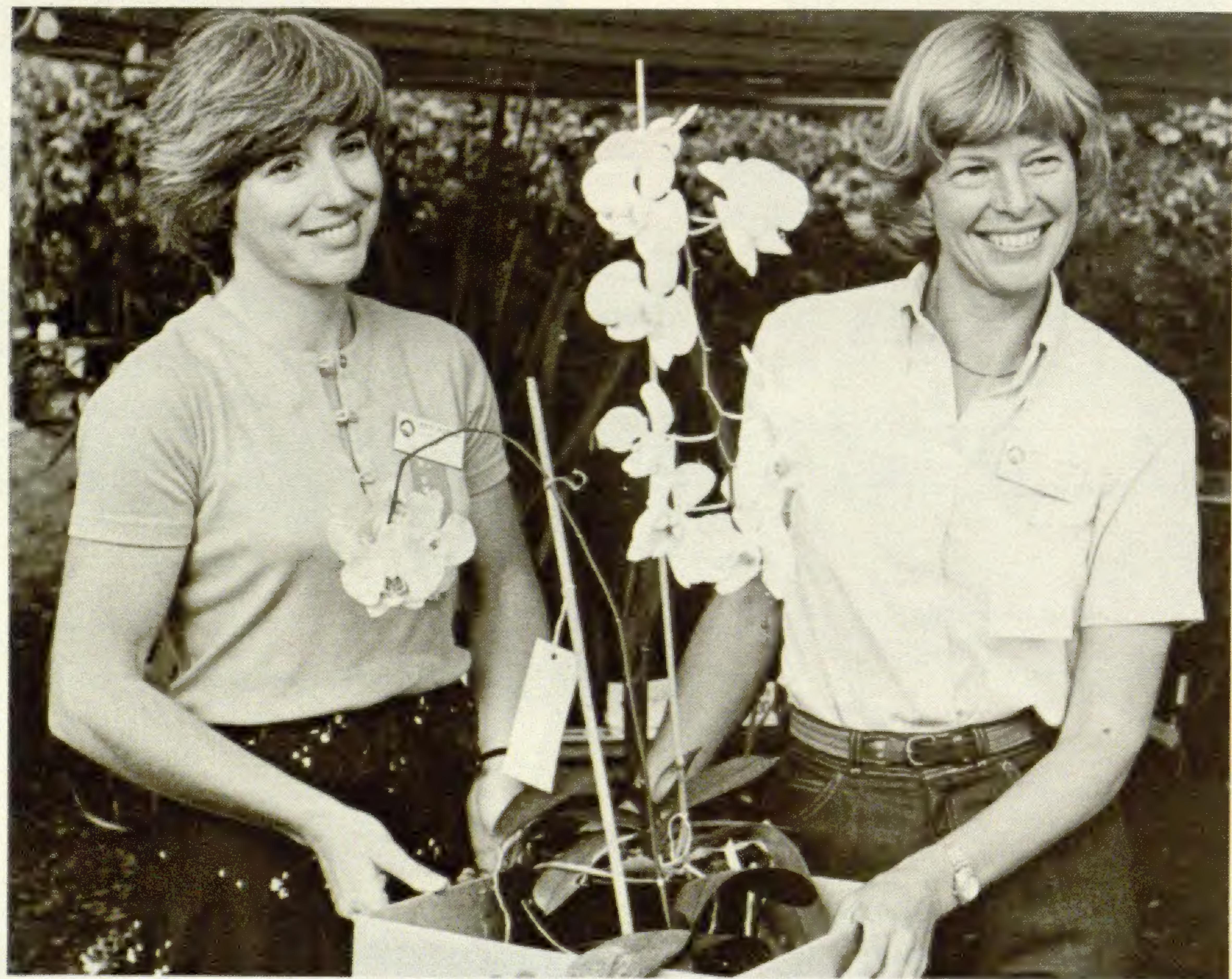


Co-chairmen, Milton and Dorothy Murset, inventory plants for Baldwin Bonanza XII.

RIGHT Siby (Mrs. C. Perry) Minton manages the palm booth.



BELOW Dorothyjean (Mrs. Raymond) Spoelstra touts one of the approximately 1,000 cymbidium orchids sold.



Robin (Mrs. Benjamin) Stafford, left, chairman for the 1983 Bonanza, checks the Will Call booth with Peggy (Mrs. William) Hedeman.





Jean (Mrs. John Jr.) Atkinson sells gazanias in the Sun Plants Booth.



Marilyn (Mrs. John Jr.) Llewellyn, left, and Betty (Mrs. Dale) Allen stock the racks with fast-selling fuchsia baskets.

BELOW When the gates finally open, the patience of these preview party shoppers will be rewarded by first choice of the Baldwin Bonanza plants.



He wheels away his forest of chamaedorea palms and assorted smaller plants.



Young shoppers dart among the tables in the Kids' Booth, choosing from an assortment of inexpensive, easy to grow plants. Adults are barred from the area because they might dampen the enthusiasm of the fledgling gardeners.

LOS ANGELES STATE & COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

JULY 3, 4, 5 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cactus and Succulent Show and Sale
Cactus and Succulent Society of America**

JULY 10, 11 — Saturday 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Begonia Show and Sale
American Begonia Society**

JULY 11 — Picnic at 6:30 p.m.
Performance at 8 p.m.
Kingston Trio Concert
Arcadia Chamber of Commerce**

SEPT. 10, 11, 12 — Fri. 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Sat.-Sun. 9 to 4:30 p.m.
Cactus and Succulent Show
San Gabriel Valley Cactus and Succulent Society**

SEPTEMBER 12 —
Evening Concert
Artists to be Announced
Arcadia Rotary Club**

CALENDAR

JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 1982

SEPT. 18, 19 — 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Ivy Show
American Ivy Society**

SEPTEMBER 25, 26 — 10 to 4:30 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Akebono Bonsai Society**

*Sponsored by California Arboretum Foundation
**Cosponsored by California Arboretum Foundation

DESCANSO GARDENS, La Canada

JULY 8 - AUG. 26 — 11 a.m.
Walking Tour of the Gardens*
Guided by Docents
Wednesday & Thursday only

JULY 11 — 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Music on the Green
Sweet Adelines, Verdugo Hills Chapter*

JULY 18 — 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Concert on the Green
Pasadena City College*

JULY 25 — 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Ballet on the Green
California Repertory Ballet Company*

*Sponsored by Descanso Gardens Guild
**Cosponsored by Descanso Gardens Guild

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

AUGUST 14, 15 — Sat. 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Sunday 10 to 4:30 p.m.

Dahlia Show
South Coast Dahlia Society**

**Cosponsored by South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation